

# Shining the Light



## Peace in a Messy World

Kofi Annan has a plan for our world that places the United Nations at its center. "Your work has deep and personal significance for every individual on our planet – whether they are aware of it or not," said Mr. Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations and co-recipient of the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize, during a recent address before U.N. staff in Vienna.



Kofi Annan at the Hofburg with Federal President Thomas Klestil

During his four-day visit to Vienna, Mr. Annan met with President Thomas Klestil, Minister for Foreign Affairs Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Parliamentary President Heinz Fischer, Michael Häupl, Mayor and Governor of Vienna, and Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel among others.

### About Terrorism

The first Secretary-General to be elected from the ranks of the UN staff, Kofi Annan has sought throughout his

of equality, tolerance and human dignity found in the UN Charter. "We are going to persevere," said Mr. Annan. "We also need to be careful that as we press ahead with the fight against terrorism we don't focus on that to the detriment of everything else. None of the problems that existed before September 11 have gone away. In fact, we have more urgent reasons now to tackle the issues of poverty, conflict, disease, and the environment."

### About Current Events

Mr. Annan firmly assessed current events in Afghanistan and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, pointing out that the solution to such hostilities would not be rooted solely in addressing security concerns. "We live in a messy world," said Annan. "I hope that the world will be better as we move forward, but I cannot say that the year 2002 has started very well." He also expressed dismay at current Israeli policy toward Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. "Arafat is the leader of the Palestinian people," said Mr. Annan. "By being isolated and virtually being under house arrest, it makes it difficult for him to lead."

Mr. Annan went on to say he realized there was hope during a recent tour of Afghanistan, and since he has outlined a philosophical blueprint for peace in which the UN plays a crucial role. How to best accomplish his mission? Mr. Annan seems open to suggestions. Demonstrating a refreshing sense of humour, he remarked upon the close of his speech to the assembled U.N. staff, "Let's open the floor and see who wants to give me some advice." The immediate response was resounding applause.

□ Edward Pittmann

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leadership to maintain international peace and security, to encourage and advocate human rights, the rule of law, and the universal values

EVENTS  
VISIT OF KOFI ANNAN



Chancellor Wolfgang Schüssel, Kofi and Nane Annan, Mrs Schüssel



Speech of the Austrian Foreign Minister Benita Ferrero-Waldner



Guests from the VIC



The receiving line



Speech at the Rotunda in the VIC